

EFL Students' Perceptions towards the Use of Online Networks in the Classrooms of ELEP

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ABSTRACT

With the advancement of technology, online networks could bring some benefits for both students and teachers. One aspect to consider in the application of online networks in learning is how students' perceive it. A study conducted by Sagarra and Zapata (2008) obtained that students had positive feedbacks toward the use of online networks to assist the learning process. Moreover, a study conducted by Espinosa (2015) noticed that students enjoy their experience of using online networks in the classroom. Since involving online networks to assist face-to-face meeting has been a common practice in English Language Education Program (ELEP), this study sought to find the students' perception toward the use of online networks in English classroom. The data were collected by interviewing three participants from 2013 to 2016 batch. By answering fifteen (15) open-ended questions, the students showed positive feedbacks towards the use of online networks. They declared that online networks were accessible, helpful, and flexible. Moreover, they affirmed that the class was more fun and interesting as it was different from the regular practice. It is expected that this study would foster teachers to consider students' perception when designing online activities.

Keywords: students' perception; online networks; technology in language learning; benefits; problems